

**Phone Call with EPA and Migrant Clinicians Network and Farmworker Justice
3/4/10**

Participants:

Amy Liebman, Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN)

Virginia Ruiz, Farmworker Justice

Katie Weyrauch, Pesticide Re-evaluation Division (PRD), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP)

Maia Tatinclaux, PRD/OPP

Kathy Davis, Field and External Affairs Division (FEAD), OPP

- Amy went over letter from MCN to EPA. The MCN and other authors would like pesticide labels to be required in Spanish. Currently there is no regulation that requires labels to be in Spanish. Their letter asks EPA to require pesticide labels to be translated to Spanish and explains how this could be done without burdening the Agency with translating all of the labels. Industry would translate their labels and EPA could have a system of sampling translated labels.
- MCN et al. wants to ensure that issues on labels can be communicated to workers, people who use pesticides, or are exposed to pesticides. For MCN et al. this is both a 'right to know' issue and a farmworker safety issue. Their main focus on farmworkers but they think there is a larger consumer issue. People who work lower paying jobs such as farm working often live in substandard housing and have to use pesticides in their homes.
- Amy discussed some of her work in Puerto Rico. It is her understanding that RUP pesticide labels have to be translated into Spanish, but the reality on the ground is that most pesticide labels are not translated into Spanish. Some of the people she works with have requested Spanish labels.
- The group discussed the possibility of having labels in other languages besides Spanish. Amy expressed her belief that ultimately all information concerning pesticides being used should be provided in a language the worker can understand. Kathy mentioned the concern of various Spanish dialects, but MCN et al. believes a clear Spanish translation can be found that all Spanish-speakers will understand.
- The group discussed some of the other issues around the translation of pesticide labels into Spanish. While having a label in Spanish is a good first step to communicating pesticide risk issues to farmworkers, there are other efforts that are just as important when communicating the risks of pesticides to workers, as well as how to properly apply the pesticide. Training workers in a manner that they understand to apply pesticides correctly and properly use PPE is an important aspect of worker protection.
- EPA informed MCN et al. of its projected path forward. EPA intends to publish a Federal Register Notice (FRN) asking for comment on this issue. EPA in the FRN will outline some of the issues around Spanish labeling and will seek directed comment by asking specific questions in the FRN.